



“RENEWING *the* PROMISE *of* SYRACUSE”

A 50 Point Plan for a 21st Century City

the PLAN

As Mayor, I will strive to improve the quality of life in the City of Syracuse by developing and implementing progressive policies steeped in innovation, transparency, community engagement, and a zeal for bold, equitable leadership that provides 21st Century responses to Syracuse's 21st Century challenges and opportunities.

My 50 Point Plan will cover six major policy areas: Economic Development and Job Creation, Education and Youth, Public Safety, Sustainability and the Environment, Community Development, Housing, and Neighborhoods, and Government Modernization and Efficiency. Within each of these six areas I will outline broad goals and the specific strategies which collectively will create a critical mass of public action. This outline will provide clarity to city government that will bring transparency for our citizens, predictability for business people, and a cohesive plan of action that will drive the operations of a united city workforce toward a cogent vision. The policy strategies found herein will also pull from best practices found in cities around the country and around the world. These areas provide the framework for a platform that will usher in an era of innovation and vigor in city government.

While setting goals and defining strategies that will bring about the change our community so desperately needs, the links between these policy areas will also be clearly illustrated. Focused solutions and targeted actions in each area will be imperative to achieve significant results, but it is this holistic and integrated approach to governance that will bring about synergistic impacts and lasting change. Throughout this document you will find an emphasis on coordination within city government that gets departments and their personnel out of their traditional silos and into a more dynamic and creative atmosphere. This atmosphere will be the engine that creates efficiencies in the government and generates multi-disciplinary solutions to meet the complex problems our city faces.

Section One

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT *and* JOB CREATION

Section Two

EDUCATION *and* YOUTH

Section Three

PUBLIC SAFETY

Section Four

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING *and*
NEIGHBORHOODS**

Section Five

SUSTAINABILITY *and* the ENVIRONMENT

Section Six

**GOVERNMENT MODERNIZATION *and*
EFFICIENCY**



Section Three

PUBLIC SAFETY

Syracuse has a rich history in public safety. Our Police and Fire Departments are descendants of some of the first public services to be provided in the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County. Indeed, providing public safety service is one of the most essential functions of any government. To achieve a high quality of life people must know that they and their loved ones are safe in their community. If Syracuse is to succeed as a city, both for those who live here now and for those we wish to join our community in the future, we must provide the security that allows business to thrive, draws new residents to our neighborhoods, and creates peace of mind for all those who live and work in our city.

Over the years we have seen the challenges we face in our neighborhoods: the presence of drugs and guns, summers that bring rushes of violent acts, and young people with too much time on their hands and not enough guidance to give them better paths. While the perception that the city is a dangerous place is often based more on fear than on facts, we must be honest about the trials we have to go through to make our city safer. In the past city administrations refused to even recognize that our city had a gang problem. We need an honest approach if we are going to be able to work effectively with neighborhood residents, community organizations and neighborhood watch groups to build the critical mass needed to take back all of our neighborhoods.

The efforts of our men and women in blue, our school administrators and teachers, neighborhood watch groups, the District Attorney's office, youth and community organizations and everyday Syracusans have given us considerable strength. We now need the leadership to harness this strength and spearhead more innovative, aggressive and comprehensive solutions to our public safety challenges.

Truly collaborative efforts that place an emphasis on continuous programming for young people, engaged community policing, and targeted force deployment will create a more cohesive strategy that allows fewer people to fall between the cracks.

These strategies will also help our schools and young people achieve higher levels of performance while simultaneously making our neighborhoods safer. Such comprehensive policy approaches will make our community more safe and successful today as well as years and decades into the future.

In order to do this however we must foster stronger relationships between our police force, our schools, youth organizations, neighborhood watch groups, and grassroots community members. Building more trust and effective communication between these groups and individuals will create an interwoven network of interested stakeholders that will generate more power than any one organization can build on its own. Such a network will help cultivate the kind of relations and communication that will empower the Syracuse Police Department to incite more positive change in our neighborhoods.

Providing world class fire and emergency medical services has been a Syracuse hallmark for decades and we must continue to support these services as a marketable asset for our city.

It is clear that there is much work to do to make our city a safer and safer feeling place. We need a more innovative and integrated approach to achieve greater results for our downtown, our business districts and our neighborhoods. With determined and progressive leadership we can take the steps we need to make Syracuse a safer, healthier, more attractive place to live and work.



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Section Three

PUBLIC SAFETY

(summary)

GOALS

- **Embrace innovative strategies to reduce crime in our city.**
- **Reduce both violent and property-related crimes in our neighborhoods.**
- **Minimize crime rates in and around our neighborhood business districts and downtown.**
- **Strengthen the relationship between our police force and grassroots community members.**
- **Continue to provide world class fire protection and emergency medical services.**

STRATEGY #17

Implement a comprehensive strategy for eliminating gang-related violence through prevention by integrating the operations of different city, county, state and federal agencies.

STRATEGY #18

Explore how deployment of security cameras can improve security downtown and in currently high crime areas.

STRATEGY #19

Create a more visible, more geographically-deployed police presence to stabilize chronically high crime areas of the City.

STRATEGY #20

Focus crime reduction efforts, including foot patrols, in neighborhood business districts to improve their safety and economic viability.

STRATEGY #21

Continue to fund our Fire Department at sufficient levels to maintain its top level rating and world class performance.

STRATEGY #22

Support information and communications system upgrades for our emergency and public safety services to improve coordination and response capabilities.

Section Three

PUBLIC SAFETY

(cont'd.)

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When people talk about better public safety they often talk about having more police, more patrols, more overtime pay, and more cars. While it is important to create a police department that has the size to match the scale of our challenges, it is also important for us to develop prevention and enforcement models that employ an approach that is as smart as it is strong.

New approaches and best practices can help our hard working men and women in blue make our streets safer for our City's children and families.

A one dimensional strategy to law enforcement will not provide the results we need. We need to combat the problems we face in our neighborhoods from many angles. A coordinated approach to neighborhood revitalization will be necessary to bring all parts of our community to a safer and more vibrant future. While issues related to code enforcement, education and beautification are part of that equation, it will be very important for us to take a new, more aggressive approach to crime prevention and enforcement.

Programs like Cease Fire in Cincinnati can teach us lessons about how strategies that integrate city, county, state, and federal agencies can achieve more significant results. Going further than Operation Impact, I would propose all law enforcement agencies including the District Attorney's office, probation, parole and others would team up with the Syracuse Police Department, the Onondaga County Sheriff, State Troopers and local job placement and transitional service providers to create a holistic program that identifies those who are committing the most violent crimes in our community and those they associate with in order to focus on prevention first. If we can take responsibility for our children through the Say Yes to Education initiative and improved schools, provide parks facilities and youth programming, begin to grow the workforce of the new economy through our institutions of higher education and job training programs,



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PUBLIC SAFETY

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while at the same time working to subvert the destructive way of life that we see far too often on our streets I believe we can make drastic strides in making safer city with a higher quality of life. A bold stance is needed to prevent violent crimes from being committed, but providing strong leadership paired with tough enforcement can help move our neighborhoods forward.

STRATEGY #18

Explore how deployment of cameras can improve security downtown and in currently high crime areas.

When I talk to neighborhood residents about their concerns they raise a lot of quality of life issues that include people speeding down their street, fights or verbal altercations involving small groups of young people, drug dealing and other such issues that may not seem to be very severe. However, these kinds of issues have a cumulative effect that slowly erodes the quality of life.

An answer frequently given to people who voice these concerns is, “the police can’t be everywhere.” And that is certainly true – the police can not be everywhere. That is why we should pursue innovative solutions that can help with these quality of life issues as well as with major crimes. The deployment of video cameras in strategic locations is one step that could help our overworked police officers solve crimes that may otherwise be unsolvable.

Cities like Philadelphia have found success with such programs, while protecting civil rights, and I believe that deployment of surveillance cameras in high crime areas as well as in dense business areas like downtown can help improve the public safety at a lower cost to the tax payer than

hiring a new squad of police officers. Innovative approaches to preventing and solving crimes will be needed to make our city safer without breaking the bank.

STRATEGY #19

Create a more visible, more geographically-deployed police presence to stabilize chronically high crime areas of the City.

Visibility is a huge element to effective police engagement. Having a police force that has a strong street presence is important for the peace of mind and well being of our neighbors. Having police officers that are recognizable to residents of a particular neighborhood can be very important to building trust, fostering relationships that may lead to better intelligence, and letting people in that neighborhood know that any acts of violence will bring swift action from a force that is incredibly familiar with the street-level details of that area and the people that live there.

Having a force that is deployed in a more geographically targeted way in regards to force levels and in regards to the individual officers deployed with an emphasis on community relations will foster stronger relationships between the police and grassroots community members including residents, faith-based organizations and neighborhood watch groups which will improve the “eyes on the street,” and the police force’s ability to gather actionable intelligence.

Section Three

PUBLIC SAFETY

(cont'd.)

STRATEGY #20

Focus crime reduction efforts, including foot patrols, in neighborhood business districts to improve their safety and economic viability.

If we are to create vibrant, walkable and sustainable neighborhoods we will need safe neighborhood commercial corridors where people feel safe at all times. Our neighborhood business districts and the small businesses that line them need customers who feel safe patronizing their establishments. Making these areas as safe as possible must be a priority.

Bike and foot patrols must be a part of how we strengthen these areas during the summer months. Police need to have a persistent presence in these often bustling, crowded areas if they are going to experience economic success and sustainability. Certainly, we can not expect the residential neighborhoods that surround these districts to be stable unless the districts themselves are relatively safe.

Recent events have shown us that this must be taken seriously. We will not achieve a more economically, socially or environmentally sustainable city without creating safer and more stable neighborhood commercial corridors.

STRATEGY #21

Continue to fund our Fire Department at sufficient levels to maintain its top level rating and world class performance.

Syracuse is home to one of the best Fire Departments in the nation. We know that if anything ever happens to us, our

loved ones or our homes that help will be there within a few minutes.

As a result of having a top rated fire department property owners in the City of Syracuse pay lower home owners insurance than in other communities. That is an incredible asset. The peace of mind and financial savings that have come from our sustained investment in our fire and emergency medical services have created incredible value that acts as a draw to residents and businesses for our city.

We must continue this investment and ensure that these services and the dedication and professionalism of the men and women that provide them remain a hallmark of our community.

STRATEGY #22

Support information and communications system upgrades for our emergency and public safety services to improve coordination and response capabilities.

Our men and women in public safety and emergency services put their lives on the line to keep the people of the Syracuse community safe 24 hours a day, every day of the year. We must always make sure that they have the tools they need to perform their duties at the highest level and to keep them as safe as possible while on the job.

Section Three

PUBLIC SAFETY

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Technology upgrades have taken place in these services over the years, but there is still more that can be done to improve communications technology and coordination, record keeping systems and data management tools that aid in tracking and serving needs. We must undergo a full analysis to determine which are the areas of greatest need in technology and communications upgrades for our police, fire and other emergency and public safety related systems. Having the most sophisticated and effective tools is critical to the safety of our community and to the people who serve us every day.



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